GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5349
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
MULTI POINT CONNECTIVITY BASED CELLULAR SERVICE IN ANDHRA PRADESH
BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cellular operators are pleading for Multi point connectivity in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether in the absence of multipoint connectivity the two service providers are charging different rates for the same service;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to bring parity in their charges?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Both the existing private cellular operators in Andhra Pradesh Telecom Circle viz. Bharti Mobile Limited and Tata Cellular Limited were provided multiple points of inter connection with PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) based on their request subject to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India(TRAI) guidelines of technical integrity and technical feasibility. Recent determination of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India(TRAI) dated 8th January, 2001 regarding provisionof point of interconnection and routing of traffic has been challenged before the TDSAT (Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal). Hon`ble TDSAT has stayed implementation of the said determination of TRAI.Therefore, no further point of inter-connection are being provided by BSNL to any cellular operator, matter being sub-judice.

(b) to (d): Tariff for CMTS is regulated by TRAI.Cellular Service Providers are also permitted to offer alternate tariff packages in addition to mandatory standard tariff package, subject to reporting requirement to TRAI.